

NORTHWICH TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 4th MARCH 2024

Present:

Cllr Jane Thomas

Town Mayor

Councillors:

Cllr Joanne Callaghan

Cllr Catriona Stewart

Cllr Julie MacDonald

Cllr Andrew Cooper

Cllr Kate Cernik

Cllr Olwyn Dean

Cllr Catherine Fox

Cllr Andy Kent

Cllr Andy Stott

Cllr Bob Cernik

Cllr Janet Illidge

Cllr Alison Gerrard

Cllr Sam Naylor

Cllr Lee Siddall

Also present:

Chris Shaw

Cath Kirwan

Chief Officer

Deputy Chief Officer/Responsible Finance Officer

NTC 23/121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Amy Lockett, Cllr Graham Emmett, Cllr Arthur Neil, Cllr Patricia Parkes, Cllr Rachel Waterman and Councillor Tom Melville.

NTC 23/122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interest under the following categories:

- Pecuniary Interest
- Outside Bodies Interest
- Family, Friend or Close Associate interest

Cllr Andrew Cooper, Cllr Sam Naylor declared an interest in any matters relating to Cheshire West and Chester Council. Cllr Olwyn Dean and Cllr Alison Gerrard declared an interest in any matters relating to Rudheath Parish Council

NTC 23/123 OPEN FORUM

Nobody in attendance

Date.....

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Cllr Jane Thomas

Town Mayor

NTC 23/124 SIGNING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 5th January 2024 be confirmed and approved as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Cllr Andy Stott and seconded by Cllr Lee Siddall

All agreed.

Minutes to be signed by the Mayor.

NTC 23/125 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

6.1 To note the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024. Noted by Cllr Lee Siddall

6.2 To note the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024
Noted by Cllr Janet Illidge

As the minutes of the 20th February planning meeting were not approved at the Committee meeting due to members being absent it was approved at the Full Council meeting on 4th March 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Janet Illidge and seconded by Cllr Lee Siddall

All agreed.

NTC 23/126 TOWN MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor's diary – February 2024

21 st February 2023	The Town Mayors Indian, Castle A successful and enjoyable evening had by all that attended. We raised £410.00 for the Town Mayors Charity. The Indian at Castle provided a lovely meal for everyone and made us all feel very welcome. <i>Mayor would like to pass on her thanks for Liza Clansey for organising the event.</i>
23 rd February 2023	Rudheath and Witton Together Celebration To celebrate the ten-year culmination of the work that they have received funding for. <i>Town Mayor thanked Rudheath and Witton for their fantastic work.</i>

Date.....

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**Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor**

NTC 23/127 CHIEF OFFICER REPORT

Cllr Andrew Cooper thanked Northwich Town Council staff for their hardwork improving footpaths in Leftwich which was funded by Cllr Coopers Members Budget

Cllr Jane Thomas thanked CW&C members for their members budget contribution to various projects.

NTC 23/128 AMENITY AND CEMETERY FEES 24-25

Members approved the Finance Committee recommendations to accept 2024/25 Amenity & Cemetery fees.

Northwich Town Council Bereavement Service fees are considerably lower than neighbouring Burial Authorities but with increases in costs from our suppliers, contractors and own staff we have no alternative but to increase costs.

Members approved a 10% increase across all our fees which will cover the cost of increases applied to us.

Proposed by Cllr Lee Siddall seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald

All agreed.

NTC 23/129 WINTER SALT BOXES

Members discussed the feasibility of installing winter salt boxes to various locations throughout Northwich.

Cllr Andrew Cooper explained to members that residents are wanting more areas (roads) to be gritted and suggested a working group be formed.

Members proposed a working group be formed.

Proposed by Cllr Lee Siddall and seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald

All agreed.

NTC 23/130 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Members noted response from the Police & Crime Commissioner Panel. It was proposed that three NTC members will attend the panel on the 15th March 2024 and will report back to Council.

All members expressed concern regarding the PCC Panel response and welcome the opportunity for NTC members to address the panel.

Proposed by Cllr Catherine Fox and seconded by Cllr Julie McDonald

All agreed.

Date.....

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**Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor**

NTC 23/131 POLICE UPDATE

PCSO Nichola Devey gave an update on various issues around the town.

YOUTH ASB

Slight increase in reported Incidents of ASB around the town which are being addressed by local officers.

CAREY PARK – HOMELESS

We are currently dealing with 3 homeless people in Carey Park, partner organisations are also giving support. We are undertaking regular visits and have advised them to keep the area clean and free from litter.

VICTORIA HOUSE

Residents around Victoria House are reporting increased activity around the area, a direct email has been set up to report any incidents and we are working with Forfutures to address any residents concerns.

Vehicle ASB on Cumberland Street / Barons Quay

Reports are still being made about Anti-social driving / behaviour at the above locations. The reports are being made in the late evening early hours of the morning. SECT 59 is (vehicle ASB) have now been produced and dropped off at Barons Quay which have now been installed along with Matalan and Cumberland carparks.

We will be increasing patrols and also arranging a site visit with our Designing out Crime Officer and Crime prevention Officer

Business crime week is coming up 11th March

We will be visiting local businesses with partners to offer advice and support.

Members thanked Nichola for her report and the continued work she does around the town.

Date.....

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**Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor**

NTC 23/132 106 IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Members were presented with the Finance Committee recommendations for the following work.

Councillor Olwyn Dean declared an interest so did not vote.

Winnington Allotments

Scope of works – remove existing fencing, replace with 1.8 taurus, install new double gate, remove all debris including compost pile, install new tap.

Crown lift of trees to be carried out by our approved tree contractor at a cost of **£780**.

Groundwork & Leisure	£15,386
Landscape Centre	£44,650
Northwich Town Council	£21,555

Groundwork & Leisure to carry out the works at a cost of £15,386 plus vat

Queensgate Allotments

Install additional fencing and new carpark area.

Groundwork & Leisure	£24,855
Groundinc	£26,895
Northwich Town Council	£26,420

Groundwork & Leisure to carry out the works at a cost of £24,885 plus vat

Vickersway Allotments

Install additional fencing, new car park and gates.

Groundwork & Leisure	£20,700
Landscape Centre	No Quote Received
Northwich Town Council	£23,670

Groundwork & Leisure to carry out the works at a cost of £20,700 plus vat

Proposed by Councillor Lee Sidall seconded by Councillor Jo Callaghan that the works be approved.

All Agreed

Date.....

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**Cllr Jane Thomas
Town Mayor**

NTC 23/133 CW&C COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Andrew Cooper updated members with funding received from UKPS which will be spent on the gates, a radar key and footpath improvements and also dropping kerb in Leftwich. The path will be improved for Dane Valley and a bench will be installed. Also, additional funding has been received to help out with Science projects and various activities in the area with Grozone which will pay for additional staff.

Cllr Sam Naylor updated members on the budget meeting from CWaC. Car parking to be increased by 30p and green bins cost will increase. Pot holes are still bad in the area.

NTC 23/134 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Lee Siddall was pleased to inform members about the Citizen Science Project which tests the local waters and has been working in partnership with them. Lee attended a meeting and asked members

to let him know if they can become involved. Better Rivers Community Fund which is funded by United Utilities has awarded a grant for £1075 for boxes which can test the water in the area. Information can be updated on the app and you can compare the water in different areas.

Cllr Andy Kent updated members on the Northwich Train Station and is likely to have a Friends of Group set up by the end of April. Network Rail have apologised for not meeting the deadline again. £3000 has been received for artwork from Wales. Cllr Andy Kent would like Tesco to tidy the petrol station and asked the Chief Officer to speak with the manager in doing this as they will be litter picking in the area this weekend. Cllr Julie McDonald mentioned the dead birds in the ceiling and netting and new netting should be replaced.

Cllr Olwyn Dean has offered litter pickers to any groups that may need them and are welcome to use The Venue at Rudheath

Cllr Kate Cernik attended a Community Partnership meeting who will be managed by Cheshire West Voluntary Action and will be deciding their priorities for the coming year and mental health and dementia will be a priority. Cllr Kate Cernik had a useful talk with Weaver Vale Housing Trust who want to provide a budget for existing people in a group and asked members if they know of any groups that would benefit. Dementia friendly is looking at doing walks to keep people active while they can. Oasis Café in Leftwich at Emanuel Church and Salvation Army are hoping to put on more singing and coffee mornings. Cllr Kate Cernik thanked members for their contribution to producing leaflets and asked members if they would like to attend a Dementia Friendly Awareness training to learn about the impact of dementia.

7.12pm – Cllr Alison Gerrard left the meeting.

NTC 23/135 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Council meeting will be Monday 8th April 2024 at 6.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.

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Cllr Jane Thomas Town Mayor
Town Mayor